

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

We write to you in support of the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program, created in Title II, Part D of the No Child Left Behind Act, and request your assistance in securing an appropriation of \$700 million for fiscal year 2008. This is the same amount that Congress appropriated for EETT in fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

The Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program provides funds for educational technology that are crucial to ensuring all students meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and are equipped with the skills to be competitive in the global marketplace. A recent national trends report commissioned by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) indicates that states target EETT funds at the two pillars of NCLB – reading and math achievement: in 2005-06, 45% of states emphasized reading, and 45% emphasized mathematics in EETT competitive grant applications. Additionally, 28% of states focused on science, and more than half of the states dedicated much more than the required 25% of EETT funds to professional development. Sixty-three percent of competitive grants to LEAs included data management and data driven decision making. Technology advances at a rapid pace, and schools need on-going resources to sustain and maximize the potential for student achievement. This program ensures schools have the technological tools to improve the education of all students.

Districts rely on EETT funds as a core means for providing a competitive 21st Century learning environment. EETT is the only source of education technology funding that 17 states (CA, DE, IL, KS, MD, MN, MS, MO, NH, NJ, OK, ND, OR, UT, VT, WA, and WI) provide to their school districts. A total of over three-quarters of states rely on EETT as the majority, if not the only, source of education technology funding.

EETT funds provide students, educators, and communities with:

- Access to instruction – including rigorous math, science and foreign language courses – often not available except through online learning, especially in rural and high-poverty schools.
- One-on-one remediation for low-performing students through engaging, interactive instructional software that adapts to support the learning needs and pace of each student.
- Real-time, on-demand data and assessment tools that accurately gauge students' learning strengths and weaknesses and help teachers target their instruction.

- Expanded opportunities to build teacher skills and develop interactive professional communities through web-based training to ensure all teachers are highly qualified.

Federal leadership and investment are critical to addressing these educational needs and modernizing our nation's teaching and learning. We thank you for your consideration of our request and urge your continued support of the EETT Program.

Sincerely,

Joe Lieberman

Jeff Blumenthal

Mark Warner

Tom F. Latham

Jim Webb

Robert Menendez

Byron D. Morgan

Jay Byrnes

Ben Cardin

Susan Collins

Olympia Snowe

Blanche Lincoln

Edward M. Kennedy

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Patrick Leahy

Noah Coleman

Dick Durbin

Robert A. Menendez

Chris Dodd

Kent Conrad

Salby

Whitmore

Janne Kristin

Mary Landrin

Em Bayh

Rebbie Stenew
